Xbox Ambassadors Celebrate Gaming + Disability 2023

Community Taxel Oct 2, 2023

Hey, Xbox Ambassadors! This year we're celebrating the Gaming and Disability Community by spotlighting individual Ambassadors on our Xbox Ambassadors Blog and the Xbox Wire! We're excited to share stories from our community about how gaming has impacted the lives of those with disabilities. Read the spotlights below to learn more, and remember to check out our Quests page for more ways to celebrate the Gaming and Disability Community this month.

Spotlights

CaptSpaulding73

How does gaming impact your life?

It helps to improve my motor skills as well as hand/eye coordination. It has such a positive impact in my life not to mention that it’s so much fun, too!

Do you have a favorite gaming memory you’d like to share with the community?
My favorite gaming memory is the day I received my adaptive controller. I was so excited to be able to play certain games I wasn’t able to play before because of a hand and wrist injury.

What specific games or franchises do you connect the most, and why?
I really connect with Tom Clancy’s The Division & Division 2 series so much because it really challenges me to push myself to overcome my limitations, which I’m able to do sometimes and it’s extremely satisfying and rewarding.

raidergirl#311

How does gaming impact your life?
It gives me something to do. I don’t play as long as I like because some of the games don’t have accessibility features or the features are inadequate. For example, in Tell Me Why, I spent a long time trying to face the correct direction to interact with an item. I couldn’t chase a memory long enough to get through the event so I could move on. I just quit. I did have accessibility features enabled. Other games, don’t have features to deal with hand/finger fatigue. I don’t have game pass currently so I basically play the Microsoft Solitaire Games which I did turn off animations upon solve. I get game pass for a month when this season ends. I’m kind of excited, but I wonder how many games will be worth playing due to me having just a keyboard and mouse. I never bought a PlayStation or Xbox because I couldn’t remember what all the buttons were for so I bought Nintendo. Nintendo has less buttons to remember the functions of. I was not aware of Xbox accessibility until this year. I need games to slow down and also to read in game dialogue to me. I need less fatigue. I need less brightness which is not high contrast. I need

target lock especially when I have to move and shoot. I need no camera shake. There are others, but I cannot think of them at this time.

Do you have a favorite gaming memory you'd like to share with the community?
I remember playing the Atari with my family. I also remember the first time I beat Nintendo Tetris and saw the completion screen. Playing pong was fun too. I remember getting lucky and finding the Nintendo Entertainment System in a store.
What specific games or franchises do you connect the most, and why?
"Microsoft Solitaire–free, easy to play on a Zenbook
Nintendo Game Boy, Nintendo Wii, Nintendo DSi XL, Nintendo 3DS XL, Nintendo Switch- less controller buttons to memorize, I was not aware of Xbox accessibility until I became an Ambassador.

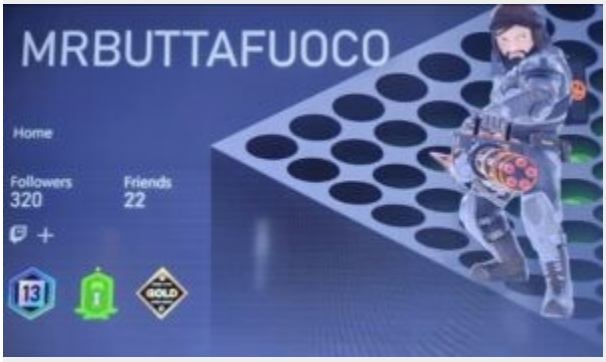
The Mario and Zelda game are usually fun. I played them a long time ago. Nintendo just added more games to these titles."

Grumpy0lLady

How does gaming impact your life?
About 5 years ago I got badly injured (back and neck) at work, and have been very limited on how long I can do things – such as housework. I have to stop every 10 minutes or so and gaming keeps me occupied while I have to wait to get back to what I was doing. I have been gaming for about 45 years, but now it makes up about 90% of my waking hours. I'd go crazy without it!

Do you have a favorite gaming memory you'd like to share with the community?
Getting that last achievement in Forza Horizon 4 – I felt invincible! That was a pretty tough completion, and very satisfying.

What specific games or franchises do you connect the most, and why?
The Dragon Age and Mass Effect series really take me away to another place. They are very easy to lose yourself in with the great stories and companions. The Elder Scrolls Oblivion and Skyrim both kept me enthralled for thousands of hours. When I'm in the mood to race, the Forza Horizon series really takes the cake. Excellent gameplay and a ton of fun! Finally, Diablo II – my first PC game and first that I didn't pump quarters into. It was the only game I played for many years. I still have all of my discs and save files from over 20 years ago! It will always have a special place in my heart.



MRBUTTAFUOCO

How does gaming impact your life?
Playing video games allows me to set small goals throughout the week, as well as clear my head and interact with people that I wouldn't otherwise participate with. Battle PTSD And anxiety with small steps.

Do you have a favorite gaming memory you'd like to share with the community?
LAN parties setting up teams for Halo, introducing my nephew to MasterChief.

What specific games or franchises do you connect the most, and why?
Halo and Gears Of War.
I am a Disabled Combat Veteran and the camaraderie of playing co op military style games draws me in.

TThekraut

How does gaming impact your life?
As a child that had severe ADHD and Dyslexia I have a hard time paying attention for any large amount of time.

Playing videogames helped me to become more patient and learn to work with my ADHD. I learned to become focused for longer periods of time and made me more confident in my ability to learn.

Do you have a favorite gaming memory you'd like to share with the community?
I remember being in my early teens when Warcraft 2 came out. I got so into it so much that I started writing down all the stats and was able to do the math to make me a better player.

It made me realize that when I actually focused I could break down raw numbers and figure mental math out in a very fast way. I had never seen math as anything but an annoying chore previously.

What specific games or franchises do you connect the most, and why?
Warcraft and StarCraft are still two of my favorite franchises. Anything from Bethesda but most of all Fallout.

I burned 5 days of vacation after fallout new Vegas came out and still play it loyally all the time.

Wrapping Up

Thank you to everyone who shared their stories with us this year as we celebrated the Gaming and Disability Community! Remember to check out

our Quests page for more ways to celebrate the Gaming and Disability Community this month.